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Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2013 and 2014

Information document

Summary

The present report by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests provides an overview of key activities undertaken in 2013 and 2014 in support of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its member countries and to enhance forest cooperation and coordination among members of the Partnership. The final section of the report provides the Partnership's vision for its work beyond 2015, including its main achievements, strengths and weaknesses and its vision for the functions, strategic direction, structure, working modalities, financing, membership and relationship with other stakeholders and regional processes.

Key activities successfully implemented during the reporting period included activities on integrating forests into the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, activities related to monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress in implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and in achieving its global objectives on forests, and on facilitating knowledge exchange on forest financing. In 2013 and 2014, the Partnership has continued to develop existing initiatives, including the Global Forest Expert Panels, the Global Forest Information Service and the Partnership Communicators Group, and has also launched a new policy learning initiative. A subset of the membership also cooperated in other activities related to sustainable wildlife management and ecosystem conservation and restoration.

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I. Introduction

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2013 and 2014 presents an overview of the activities undertaken by the Partnership, and its achievements in response to resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Since its inception, the 14 members of the Partnership have been providing significant support to the Forum by collaborating to promote greater understanding and recognition of the concept and practice of sustainable forest management.

2. The Partnership was established in April 2001 in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, bringing together 14 international forest-related organizations, instruments and secretariats,[1] with a two-fold objective: (a) to support the work of the Forum and its member countries; and (b) to enhance forest cooperation and coordination among members of the Partnership. The Partnership performs its activities with guidance from the Forum and is an integral component of the institutional framework of the international arrangement on forests in its current form.

3. In the light of the ongoing review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement and the consideration of all options for the future, the final section of the report provides the Partnership's vision for its work beyond 2015, including its main achievements, strengths and weaknesses and its vision for the functions, strategic direction, structure, working modalities, financing, membership and relationship with other stakeholders and regional processes.

4. The joint initiatives and other activities of the Partnership do not have dedicated funding and have been supported through voluntary contributions of both human and financial resources by member organizations of the Partnership, whose resources make the activities possible, together with generous contributions from donor Governments. In looking ahead to the future of the Partnership beyond 2015, ensuring sustained financial resources to support the Partnership's workplan in responding to decisions and invitations of the Forum will be a critical determinant in the Partnership's continued effectiveness.

5. Following the tenth session of the Forum, in April 2013, the Partnership organized a retreat in Rome on 2 and 3 July 2013 to take stock of the resolutions and decisions adopted at that session, strategize on the role of the Partnership in the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including the sustainable development goals, and to define the work of the Partnership, including in the context of joint initiatives by the Partnership.

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[1] The Collaborative Partnership on Forests consists of 14 organizations working in association to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management: the Centre for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

6. Since the tenth session of the Forum, in addition to the retreat, five meetings of the Partnership were held in 2013 and 2014, closely following other key international events related to forests, so as to enable the broadest participation by the majority of members of the Partnership. In addition, tele- and videoconferences enabled consultations in the periods between meetings. Summary reports of meetings of the Partnership are available on its website (see www.cpfweb.org/en).

II. Update on progress in 2013 and 2014: targeted actions in support of United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions and decisions

A. Responding to invitations from the United Nations Forum on Forests at its tenth session

1. Integrating forests into the post-2015 development agenda

7. At its tenth session, the Forum requested its secretariat and invited member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to promote the message of the importance of forests in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda.

8. Building on the Partnership's active participation in and input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, members of the Partnership actively participated in the 13 sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Several members of the Partnership were part of the United Nations system technical support team and provided input to the development of the Issues Brief on Forests, as well as to the deliberations on the sustainable development goals and its targets relating to forests.

9. The eighth session of the Open Working Group, held in February 2014, specifically dealt with the issue of forests. In that context, to assist in those deliberations, the Partnership worked on a global analysis of international instruments related to forests and prepared an analytical document and summary for negotiators that outlined possible targets and indicators on forests for inclusion in the sustainable development goals. The Partnership and the Government of Finland also organized a side event during that session on integrating forests into the goals, which highlighted the interconnectedness and importance of forests to other issues under discussion in the sessions of the Open Working Group, such as oceans, biodiversity and mountains.

10. The efforts of the Partnership contributed to having forests addressed under two of the sustainable development goals proposed in the report of the Open Working Group (see A/68/970 and Corr.1). Forests are addressed under proposed goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The proposed title of goal 15, on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss, refers to sustainable forest management, thus acknowledging the different dimensions of forests.

11. In particular, the proposed goal on terrestrial ecosystems highlights the need for global action to implement sustainable forest management, while at the same time stressing the need for resource mobilization and other means of implementation. Proposed goals 6 and 15 highlight the multiple functions of forests, especially in their vital role as watersheds.

12. In the targets proposed under goal 15, two are forest-specific, namely 15.2, which aims to promote the sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation globally, by 2020; and 15.b, which aims to mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation.

13. The water supply function of forests has also received significant attention, with references under the proposed targets of goals 6 and 15: in 6.6, which aims to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes, by 2020; and in 15.1, which aims to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements, also by 2020.

14. While significant progress has been achieved by the Partnership in promoting a consistent message on the importance of integrating forests into the deliberations on the sustainable development goals, further efforts will still be needed to ensure that forests continue to be given due consideration in the post-2015 development agenda and the ongoing relevant processes, including those relating to financing for sustainable development and the development of indicators, as well as in identifying and supporting the implementation of supportive policy frameworks for the achievement of the goals.

2. Progress on implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achieving its global objectives on forests

15. At its tenth session, the Forum requested the its secretariat to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum, including through a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of member organizations of the Partnership, taking into account the type of information provided to member organizations, and through criteria and indicators, as well as other regional processes and balanced regional workshops, depending on available resources (see E/2013/42-E/CN.18/2013/18).

16. Members of the Partnership, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the World Bank, contributed to the development of the reporting template for the eleventh session of the Forum and to the identification of data sources to measure progress in the implementation of decisions relating to the work of the Forum, in line with Forum resolution 10/1, including through direct participation in a technical meeting convened by the Forum secretariat in January 2014.

17. Since the tenth session of the Forum, members of the Partnership have continued to contribute to the Global Forest Resources Assessment programme of FAO. The members of the Advisory Group on the Global Forest Resources Assessment programme provide advice to the Global Forest Resources Assessment Team regarding the content, implementation and dissemination of the results of the Assessment. Members represent the broad range of users of the Assessment in academia, government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the partners in the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire partners, donors and United Nations organizations. Member organizations of the Partnership that participated in the Advisory Group on the Assessment include the International Tropical Timber Organization, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Forum, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and FAO. Input from members has covered such issues as the development of improved indicators, improved definitions of terms and explanatory notes for the instruction package sent to countries.

18. In 2013 and 2014, members of the Partnership contributed to joint data collection through the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire, produced by FAO and regional data collection partners. The Questionnaire aims to streamline forest-related reporting and further engage intergovernmental processes, including those of the Forum, to support joint data collection and analysis. The Questionnaire is used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Economic Commission for Europe and by the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa in cooperation with countries of the region, in the framework of the Montreal Process.

19. In 2013 and 2014, collaboration continued between the secretariat of the Forum and FAO on harmonizing the Forum's reporting formats to improve data collection and analysis, improve understanding of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and reduce the reporting burden on countries. FAO continued to provide a staff member on secondment to the secretariat of the Forum, with the main focus on contributing to the reporting work of the Forum and FAO. FAO will continue this support to the end of 2015.

20. Further information on activities related to voluntary national reporting is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2015/3).

3. Forest finance

21. Mobilizing and providing access to financial resources for forests remains a significant challenge for the implementation of sustainable forest management in many countries. Since its inception, members of the Partnership have worked on a wide range of forest financing activities to improve data collection and access to information on forest finance flows, facilitate the exchange of knowledge, build expertise and develop stakeholder capacities in mobilizing and accessing funds.

22. At its tenth session, the Forum invited relevant member organizations of the Partnership to consider strengthening their efforts to collect and facilitate access to data on forest financial flows and thereby address data gaps in forest financing in a systematic, coordinated and coherent manner. During 2013 and 2014, members of the Partnership supported the work of the Forum on forest financing through their

participation in and support for activities relating to the facilitative process. FAO, along with other partners, organized three regional workshops on national forest funds and a major publication on the topic will be launched at the eleventh session of the Forum; the International Forum on Payments for Environmental Services of Tropical Forests, held in Costa Rica in 2014, was jointly organized by FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization; both organizations, along with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, organized technical sessions on valuation, payment for ecosystem services and innovative financing at the World Parks Congress held in Sydney, Australia, in 2014. Payment for ecosystem services and forest financing were also on the agenda of the twenty-second session of the Committee on Forestry of FAO. Further information on other forest financing activities is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance at all levels (E/CN.18/2015/4).

B. Advocacy and outreach

23. At its tenth session, the Forum called upon its secretariat to develop communication tools and media products, including in collaboration with member organizations of the Partnership, to raise awareness of the importance of forests and trees outside forests, including for rural and urban communities, and of the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and poverty eradication, livelihoods and human well-being (see paras. 24-35).

1. International Day of Forests

24. In its resolution 10/1, the Forum noted the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 67/200 on the establishment of the International Day of Forests, in which the Assembly invited Member States to celebrate the Day and requested the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to facilitate the implementation of the Day, in collaboration with Governments, member organizations of the Partnership, regional and subregional organizations and major groups. In 2013 and 2014, members of the Partnership collaborated on joint communications on the International Day, including through the contribution of quotes and statements, which provided input for social media campaigns and for press releases produced by the United Nations.

25. In 2014, Partnership members held a variety of activities on the International Day. The Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity issued a statement highlighting that forests were central to the work of the Convention and that 5 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets were relevant for forests. The Centre for International Forestry Research produced a video on how forestry needed to be part of landscapes-based solutions for sustainable development and climate mitigation and issued a statement in which it stressed that forests had an impact on natural, political and economic processes across the landscape. FAO released new satellite-based data on forest resources, held a seminar on global forest monitoring and launched a video on the multiple benefits of forests for a global media campaign (including through CNN International, Al-Jazeera, Deutsche Welle and Euronews, as well as several national television broadcasters) and updated its communication toolkit for supporting communication actions by States members of FAO. GEF issued a news article on the release of Global Forest Watch, a real-time

tracking tool to monitor global deforestation. The International Tropical Timber Organization issued a statement in which it emphasized the importance of tropical forests and the multiple ecosystem services they provide. The International Union of Forest Research Organizations issued a statement calling for international cooperation in forest research in order to demonstrate how forests could meet diverse expectations in a sustainable manner. The Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification issued a statement emphasizing the link between forest loss and conflict and called for increased efforts to restore degraded forests and land. The secretariat of the Forum held a special event at United Nations Headquarters in New York, which featured a keynote speech by the Chef de Cabinet on the role of women as agents of change for forests and sustainable development.

26. In 2015, the Partnership Communicators Group has proposed that the theme of the International Day of Forests should be "Forests, climate, change", in order to communicate the links between forests and climate change and serve as a call for action and change. Coordinated communications are planned for the celebrations of the International Day in 2015, including through articles, press releases and social media campaigns.

2. Wangari Maathai Award for 2014

27. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests Wangari Maathai Award recognizes extraordinary efforts by "forest champions" to improve and sustain forests and the people who depend on them. The award, which includes a grant of $20,000, was established by the Partnership to honour the memory of Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a champion of forest issues worldwide and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

28. Building on the success of the first Wangari Maathai Award, whose winner was selected in 2012, in October 2014, the Partnership awarded Martha Isabel "Pati" Ruiz Corzo the Wangari Maathai Award for 2014 for her pioneering work to preserve forests and alleviate rural poverty in Mexico. The award ceremony took place on 6 October 2014, during the twenty-fourth World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, held in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America.

29. Ms. Ruiz Corzo was recognized for making conservation profitable for rural communities in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, one of the most ecologically diverse areas of Mexico and home to threatened species such as jaguars and green macaws, as well as 800 types of butterfly. Through her Sierra Gorda Ecological Group, she successfully lobbied the Government for the creation of the reserve in 1997 and instituted an intensive programme of conservation education and training for local communities, turning the reserve into a flagship for public-private ecosystem management.

30. The jury also gave a special honourable mention to the late Cambodian environmental activist Chut Wutty for his work to end illegal deforestation in Cambodia and protect the rights of indigenous forest dwellers. Founder of the Natural Resource Protection Group, Mr. Wutty advocated against the destruction of Cambodia's natural resources and encouraged local communities to patrol forests to prevent illegal logging. He was killed in 2012 while escorting journalists to see an area of suspected illegal activity.

31. Many members of the Partnership provided voluntary contributions for the Wangari Maathai Award, towards both the $20,000 grant and travel and other logistical arrangements. Members noted the important role such activities played in raising awareness of the importance of forests and trees, by highlighting success stories from the community level.

3. Global Landscapes Forums

32. The Partnership's Forest Day, led by the Centre for International Forestry Research, has evolved into the Global Landscapes Forums, successors to Forest Days and Agriculture and Rural Development Days, in order to integrate forests and forestry within the wider discussions of landscapes for sustainable development and climate mitigation and adaptation (see www.landscapes.org). The overall objective of the events, which are held alongside meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is to provide a platform for cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination by bringing together and connecting stakeholders from different land-use sectors such as forestry, agriculture, mountains, water and planning, as well as funding organizations and the media. Forest Days and their successors, the Global Landscapes Forums, are the events most closely related to forest issues held during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and consistently attract a high number of participants.

33. The Global Landscapes Forum held in Warsaw, in 2013, aimed to inform global climate and development frameworks, specifically the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the General Assembly, about the opportunities of a "landscape approach" to development. The event attracted over 1,200 participants. Worldwide, 1,600 people watched the live stream from the Forum, videos were viewed 6,600 times and presentations 17,600 times, within the first month after the Forum. The President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Minister of the Environment of Poland, attended the Forum in 2013.

34. The Global Landscapes Forum held in Lima, in 2014, aimed to inform the global climate and development frameworks about how a "landscape approach" could contribute to sustainable solutions under a wide range of social, environmental, political and economic conditions. The event attracted over 1,700 participants from multiple disciplines. The former President of Mexico, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and the President of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Minister of the Environment of Peru, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, attended the Forum in 2014.

35. All members of the Partnership provided substantive input to the 2013 and 2014 events in the context of the Global Landscapes Forum. In 2013, sessions and high-level discussions were hosted by over 60 organizations, including the majority of Partnership members. In 2014, 95 organizations, including the majority of Partnership members, came together for discussions.

III. Other collaborative initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

A. Global Forest Expert Panels

36. The Global Forest Expert Panels initiative is led and coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. It provides a mechanism for effectively linking the information requirements of intergovernmental processes related to forests with existing scientific expertise. The Panels produce assessment reports on key issues that reflect expert knowledge of the subject matter. The reports are prepared by thematic expert panels consisting of internationally recognized scientific experts in their field. All reports undergo rigorous peer review.

37. To date, the Global Forest Expert Panels have successfully completed three major assessments, on the adaptation of forests to climate change, the international forest regime, and biodiversity and REDD-plus.[2] The reports have been well received by stakeholders in policy processes and the scientific community, as well as by the international media. Outcomes from the assessments of the Panels have served as background information for discussions, briefing documents for negotiators and guidance for strategic policy development.

38. Following consultations with scientists, policymakers, stakeholders and donors, the Partnership initiated a new thematic scientific assessment and established the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security in November 2013. The Panel's work focuses on the following objectives: clarifying the different dimensions and the role that forests and trees play in providing food security and nutrition; analysing the social, economic and environmental synergies and trade-offs between forests and food security and nutrition and related management interventions; and assessing relevant frameworks and responses. The Panel's report aims at informing relevant international policy processes, including the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

39. The Global Forest Expert Panels presented the work of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security and emerging findings at several international meetings in autumn 2014, including at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, and as part of the events of the Global Landscape Forum in Lima, in 2014 (see para. 34). The full report of the Panel as well as a policy brief will be launched at the eleventh session of the Forum, in May 2015.

40. Various members of the Partnership have contributed to the work of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security. For example, FAO hosted and participated in the inception workshop and reviewed the draft report and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided substantive input to the lead author on the biodiversity chapter of the draft report of the Expert Panel, based on a publication prepared by the secretariat of the Convention and other organizations on

[2] REDD-plus is used as a shorthand for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries", consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The acronym REDD-plus is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the Framework Convention.

the role of biodiversity in food and nutrition, entitled *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health — A State of Knowledge Review*.

B. Policy learning initiative

41. The policy learning initiative is led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and maintained by the Governance, Environments and Markets Initiative at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. As part of the initiative, a policy learning framework has been developed to target pathways of influence that facilitate policy integration and the adaptation of policy, as well as stakeholder learning across multiple levels, to improve the practices of responsible forest management around the globe. Through this framework, the initiative pursues problem-focused research on current and pervasive forest management challenges, including tracing how certain policy levers and/or interventions can be leveraged to inform options for policy instruments in the future.

42. Key questions driving the analytical work in the initiative include:

(a) The likelihood of success in finding new ways to improve forest conditions and livelihoods through legality verification, REDD-plus and other innovative efforts, where previous efforts have been unable;

(b) How the Partnership can effectively translate, disseminate and apply good practices resulting from the analysis, through policy learning, training and capacity-building;

(c) Examining the connections between scholarly research on forest policy and governance and on-the-ground actions, and creating spaces for practical and lasting learning and problem-solving through policy learning, training and capacity-building.

43. In October 2014, the Task Force on International Forest Governance of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations convened in Salt Lake City, United States, during the twenty-fourth World Congress of the International Union to discuss how policy practitioners and local forest communities could best make use of policy learning, as well as the models, methods and guiding principles for applying policy learning to global forest management challenges. Subsequently, at the meeting of the Partnership in Lima, in December 2014, the International Union, in collaboration with the Governance, Environment and Markets Initiative, presented a scientific paper and accompanying handbook on policy learning and its applicability to designing policies that maintain the integrity of sustainable forest management systems. Currently, all three organizations are planning the further development of specific case study projects that employ the policy learning framework.

C. Global Forest Information Service

44. The Global Forest Information Service is led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and maintained by the Finnish Forest Research Institute. In 2013 and 2014, the website for the Service (see www.gfis.net) received a consistent number of visitors, approximately 22,000 per month, and recorded an overall increase in visits per month when compared with website traffic in previous

years. In addition, it has been noted that the number of social media accounts, e-newsletters and websites using content from the Service has continued to grow.

45. The Coordination Unit of the Global Forest Information Service also organized two workshops in 2013, held in Japan and in the Republic of Korea, and one workshop in the United States in 2014, with successful turnouts. In addition to the increase in the number of visitors to the website and in the number of workshops organized, the Coordination Unit released a full-scale website upgrade in August 2014, details of which are outlined below.

46. Through consultation between the partners providing information within the framework of the Global Forest Information Service and the Coordination Unit, a number of changes were implemented to enhance the usability and accessibility of the information on the website of the Service, including:

(a) Ability to add metadata to harvested content on the website, so as to improve information management, searchability and filtering;

(b) Redesigned graphics and layout of the website, to improve accessibility and organizational recognition;

(c) World map that displays the content according to world regions;

(d) Mobile scalability of the website, ensuring that when accessing the website on a mobile device, it is easier to view and search for content.

47. The upgrade was essential for the Global Forest Information Service, as the Coordination Unit works to ensure that the demands of partners are identified and addressed, while building an attractive website for potential new users and partners, as well as improving accessibility to forest-related information.

D. Partnership Communicators Group

48. The Partnership Communicators Group is led and coordinated by the Centre for International Forestry Research, FAO and the secretariat of the Forum. The Group was created during the International Year of Forests, in 2011, to enable greater coordination in communication products and events produced by Partnership members. Since the tenth session of the Forum, the Group has focused on communications relating to the International Day of Forests, the Wangari Maathai Award for 2014 and the Global Landscape Forums. During 2013 and 2014, the Group held meetings on the sidelines of key events relating to forests, as well as through tele- and videoconferences.

49. In relation to the celebration of the International Day of Forests for 2015, the Partnership Communicators Group proposed that the issue of forests and climate change would be timely and relevant to the broader political discussions and processes, including discussions in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other major international discussions. The specific theme proposed was "Forests, climate, change" (see para. 26), in the context of addressing the recognition of the role of forests in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It was suggested that sub-themes could be left open for countries or organizations to decide, however a theme for action on learning about forests and climate change was recommended by the Group.

IV. Other relevant collaborative initiatives carried out by a subset of Partnership members

A. Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management

50. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management is a voluntary partnership of 13 international organizations[3] with substantive mandates and programmes on the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. The Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management stems from decision XI/25, entitled "Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management", adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting, in which the Conference requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to liaise with relevant organizations so as to facilitate the establishment of the Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management on the basis of the considerations set out in the report on options for the development of such a partnership (UNEP/CBD/COP11/29), with an initial focus on bushmeat.

51. The Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management was established in Bangkok in March 2013, with the aim of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among its members and supporting the implementation of decisions emanating from wildlife-related conventions, including decision XI/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

52. The Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management is chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, its Vice-Chair is the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and the role of Secretary is provided by FAO. To date, the Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management has produced two factsheets on sustainable wildlife management.

B. Forest and landscape restoration

53. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are working to support global efforts in forest and landscape restoration, including in support of international processes, such as the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020 and target 15 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which calls for countries to restore at least 15 per cent of their degraded ecosystems by 2020.

54. The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration is a network of forest and landscape restoration practitioners and supporters working from the grass-roots level upwards to spread best practice and political awareness of restoration of forests and degraded lands (see www.forestlandscaperestoration.org). The Global Partnership is coordinated by a secretariat hosted at the International

[3] Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Centre for International Forestry Research, secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, FAO, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the International Trade Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, TRAFFIC International — The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Union for Conservation of Nature and includes other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, namely, the Centre for International Forestry Research, FAO, the World Agroforestry Centre, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank. One of the key initiatives of the Global Partnership is its learning network, which connects partners and collaborators and has helped bring about projects around the world, including in Brazil, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Rwanda and the United States.

55. In June 2014, FAO launched the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism to support a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder process in selected countries to restore degraded land across different land-use sectors. The mechanism was launched following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between FAO and the Government of the Republic of Korea, which includes funding for the Mechanism for an initial seven-year period (2014-2020). The Mechanism will also contribute to the goals and objectives of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration.

56. In 2014, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity held a series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops on ecosystem conservation and restoration in collaboration with member organizations of the Partnership, including FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of UNEP and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the World Resources Institute and BirdLife International. The workshops offered rich lessons from subnational, national and regional level experiences in integrated landscape-wide efforts to conserve and restore biodiversity.

57. In October 2014, the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Forest Service, launched the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative to support parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in achieving targets 5, 11 and 15 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in an integrated manner. The Initiative aims to support developing country parties as they operationalize national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Key partners of the Initiative include FAO, other members of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Centre for International Forestry Research, the World Resources Institute and the Society for Ecological Restoration.

C. Forests and climate change

58. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are working to promote concerted action on forests and climate change through multiple initiatives. One of

the key initiatives is the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme), which was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP. The Programme supports nations-led REDD-plus processes and promotes the involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in the national and international implementation of REDD-plus. The Programme supports national REDD-plus readiness efforts in 56 partner countries through the provision of direct support for the design and implementation of national programmes and the provision of complementary support for national REDD-plus action through common approaches, analyses, methodologies, tools, data and best practices. By June 2014, total funding for the two streams of support to those countries totalled $195.7 million.

59. Strategic partners of the UN-REDD Programme include the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Programme, hosted by the World Bank. The Programme also continues to explore closer collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in areas such as supporting the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, providing information and sharing lessons learned, the preparation of technical papers and working jointly on capacity development projects. The Programme also collaborates with GEF.

60. In 2014, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity held an interregional capacity-building workshop on REDD-plus and national biodiversity strategies and action plans in San José. Several members of the Partnership participated in the workshop, the results of which were presented at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, together with a compilation of information relevant to the application of safeguards for biodiversity in the context of REDD-plus. Further information was prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of UNEP, with input from the secretariat of the Convention, on the potential for synergies between REDD-plus activities and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

61. In 2015, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will carry out a technical study, identifying possible REDD-plus indicators and assessing potential mechanisms to monitor the impact on biodiversity from REDD-plus and other ecosystem-based approaches. Partnership members have been invited to contribute to this study.

V. Shaping a future vision for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, beyond 2015

62. Since the Forum's tenth session, in April 2013, various intersessional meetings have been held as part of the review of the international arrangement on forests in preparation for the eleventh session of the Forum, in May 2015. These included the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests, held in Nairobi in February 2014 (see E/CN.18/2015/10) and the workshop on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, held in Beijing in October 2014 (see E/CN.18/2015/9). In both those meetings, experts and

member countries requested the Partnership to contribute to the review of the international arrangement on forests by providing the collective view of the Partnership members on the future of the Partnership.

63. Following the request of many countries at the first meeting of the Expert Group, the Partnership, at its meeting in Salt Lake City early in October, during the twenty-fourth World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, decided to prepare a contribution for submission to the Expert Group at its second meeting, held in New York in January 2015 (see E/CN.18/2015/11). Partnership members first provided written contributions based on a template soliciting views on the main achievements, strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership and on its functions, strategic direction, structure, working modalities, financing, membership and relationship with other stakeholders and regional processes.

64. An in-depth discussion on such issues took place at a working meeting held at FAO headquarters in Rome on 26 and 27 November 2014, where members of the Partnership also reviewed the comments and proposals regarding the future of the Partnership made by the Expert Group at its first meeting, during the country-led initiative held in China and as part of the independent assessment of the international arrangement. A synthesis document of the meeting outcomes and written inputs was prepared and discussed at the meeting of the Partnership held in Lima on 8 December. The final document, summarizing the views of Partnership members on the future of the Partnership, was submitted as input to the second meeting of the Expert Group.

A. Strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership

65. The Partnership has been a unique type of United Nations partnership bringing, together entities within and outside the United Nations system with the shared objective of promoting sustainable forest management. The Partnership has produced widely recognized results and enhanced work in such areas as forest finance, sustainable forest management, reporting, scientific analysis, representation at global events and communication on forests. It has proved to be a highly effective platform for launching coordinated action on forests at the global level. The Partnership has benefited from the complementarity of the mandates of its members, the shared goal of promoting sustainable forest management and its flexible arrangements. The fact that the Partnership has existed for over a decade and that other partnerships have been established that are modelled on it (e.g. the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management) is indicative of its value.

66. An uneven commitment by members, varied support from governing bodies and the lack of dedicated financial resources for activities, however, have made it difficult for the Partnership to make an even more robust contribution. Furthermore, while the different mandates of Partnership members are an element of strength, they also present challenges. The current review of the international arrangement on forests provides an opportunity to address challenges and increase the effectiveness and impact of the Partnership.

B. Views on the future of the Partnership, beyond 2015

67. Overall, the members of the Partnership recognize the value added by the Partnership, both in its support to the Forum and in achieving better coordination and collaboration among the international organizations with significant work programmes related to forests. Partnership members are committed to continue working together, building on the strengths of the Partnership and addressing its weaknesses in 2015 and beyond.

C. Main function of the Partnership in the international arrangement on forests in the future

68. The mission of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests is to promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end. While the current two objectives of the Partnership remain valid, Partnership members see a broadened scope for the first objective, which is to collaborate in support of forest actions in other intergovernmental processes, not just the Forum, and in the activities of the various Partnership members in order to ensure policy coherence.

69. Moreover, it is expected that the sustainable development goals will be central to the future of the international arrangement on forests. Therefore, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda should be reflected in the future mission or objectives of the Partnership. Owing to the broad scope of the goals, this would also open opportunities for stronger interaction by Partnership with other intergovernmental bodies and in activities beyond forestry.

70. In the future, the objectives could be amended as follows: (a) to support the work of the Forum and its member States, other intergovernmental processes related to forests and the post-2015 development agenda; and (b) to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues. The Partnership is an action-oriented platform, not a self-standing body or a policymaking entity. Implementation is identified as a key area of action for its members.

D. Priority actions for the Partnership

71. In order to ensure that the work of the Partnership is more coherent, priority actions should be defined and reviewed periodically. This would entail: (a) making a list of collective actions by all Partnership members or subsets thereof in response to requests from Forum, the secretariats of the Rio Conventions and other governing bodies of Partnership members and United Nations processes (including resource implications); and (b) identifying other collaborative actions that Partnership members agree to undertake collectively or through a subset of members.

E. Institutional structure and status

72. The overall voluntary nature of the Partnership should be maintained while taking measures to strengthen it to be more efficient, proactive, transparent and thus more effective. It is recognized that the institutional structure of the Partnership

should be formalized to a certain degree, to address the current constraints of the informal arrangement and to strengthen the institutional standing of the Partnership. However, these constraints will also be addressed, to a certain extent, through the other identified measures to enhance the Partnership, in particular those outlined in sections V.D and V.F of the present report.

F. Future working modalities

73. Depending on the nature and content of the priority actions and taking into account the different strengths and focus of Partnership members, the formation of working groups should be considered. One such working group (which in fact already exists) would aim to strengthen the science-policy interface.

74. Partnership meetings to discuss strategic directions of the partnership, joint actions by Partnership members and operational issues, as well as to exchange information on members' activities, will continue to be held periodically, usually in conjunction with important international meetings. Should critical issues arise that require high-level decisions, a meeting of the executive heads of Partnership member organizations or their delegated representatives (taking into account the different nature of the organizations) could be convened.

75. There is a need for clearer internal rules covering all major aspects of the operation/functioning of the Partnership. Such rules of procedure or terms of reference should regulate decision-making processes, among others, for Partnership "branding", i.e. depending on whether an output or activity is carried out by the Partnership as a whole, by a subset of its members or by individual members under the aegis of the Partnership.

76. The Partnership will have a Chair, a rotating Vice-Chair and a Secretary. The member organization carrying out the role of the Chair is expected to exhibit strong engagement and to have the necessary capacity and human resources. The role of the rotating Vice-Chair in supporting the Chair could be strengthened to increase the sense of ownership and facilitate the work of the Chair.

77. The Partnership secretariat should be stable and permanent and have a strong resource base in order to be able to support the Partnership.

G. Future composition and membership

78. A number of proposals have been made for a possible enlargement of the membership of the Partnership. Membership could be expanded, for example, to strengthen coverage of the social, economic, cultural and health dimensions of forests or emerging areas of importance. An enlarged Partnership would, however, also have disadvantages and implications for the working modalities, especially with regard to the conduct of meetings and the making of decisions. Before considering the integration of additional members, the Partnership will carry out an analysis of the current membership, including with a view to identifying potential gaps, criteria for the admission of new members and the value added by them. An invitation to join the Partnership will be extended to organizations that members agree would enhance the work of the Partnership.

79. Inactive members may choose or be invited to withdraw from the Partnership. The Forum would be informed of any change in membership.

H. Financing to support Partnership action

80. Partnership activities have largely been financed by the in-kind and financial contributions of its members. For activities such as the organization of the organization-led initiative on finance, Partnership members appealed for voluntary contributions from member States. At the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests and at the country-led initiative held in China, States members of the Forum recognized the need for additional and more stable funding for the Partnership.

81. Core activities, for example in the form of secretariat support to the Partnership, would benefit from stable budget contributions. Some Partnership members, especially the finance organizations, noted that providing separate financial contributions for core activities would be difficult within their existing mandates and financial regulations.

82. Requests to the Partnership from the Forum or from the governing bodies of Partnership members that will incur significant additional costs should be supported by external financial support. The consolidated list of members' collaborative actions (see section V.D above) could facilitate raising voluntary contributions from Partnership members as well as member States, building on the recognition by countries that additional funds are necessary.

I. Relationship to major groups, as well as other organizations, instruments and processes

83. The important role of major groups and other non-governmental stakeholders in achieving sustainable forest management and the need for the Partnership to enhance engagement with them is widely recognized. Individual Partnership members are already interacting with these groups in various ways and it may be beneficial to analyse the existing mechanisms for engagement by members. This may also help to identify the stakeholder groups with the strongest potential to influence sustainable forest management and that are most relevant for the Partnership.

84. Involving major groups organizations in specific activities based on the Partnership's priority actions seems to offer a promising way of strengthening their participation. The experience of the policy learning initiative led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations demonstrates the value of involving major groups, including at the working level.

85. It would also be useful to engage with major groups before the eleventh session of the Forum, to discuss ways to strengthen major group engagement in future actions of the Partnership. The major groups-led initiative in support of the Forum scheduled to take place in Nepal in March 2015 may provide a concrete opportunity for such an exchange.

J. The Partnership and the regional dimension

86. The Partnership is a global partnership with a global identity and should, in principle, continue to focus on issues of global relevance. Nevertheless, individual member organizations are strongly engaged in work at the regional and national levels and collaborate with regional stakeholders and their organizations. A more effective engagement of the Partnership as a whole could be achieved by strengthening coordination and creating synergies between members at the regional and country levels. Greater stakeholder interaction with the Partnership could also be achieved through engagement in collaborative efforts with Partnership members at the regional level. Partnership members could also collaborate to support learning across regions.

87. Existing regional forums of Partnership members, such as the regional forestry commissions of FAO, could serve as a platform for strengthening the regional dimension of the Forum.